



(U) What Is a J-2? (repost)

FROM: (U//FOUO) [REDACTED]
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(U) Are you a lifelong civilian? Have you seen references to a military "J-2" or "J-3" and wondered what it means? Here's an explanation:

(U) The headquarters of each military command makes use of several staffs, each assigned a different function. They break out as follows:

- J-1: Manpower and Personnel
- J-2: Intelligence
- J-3: Operations
- J-4: Logistics
- J-5: Strategic Plans and Policy
- J-6: Command Control and Communications and Computer Systems

In addition, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) at the Pentagon has two more:

- J-7: Operational Plans and Interoperability
- J-8: Force Structure, Resource and Assessment

Collectively, they are called the "j-staffs."

(U//FOUO) For obvious reasons, SID has particularly close interactions with the J-2s, who handle all aspects of intelligence for their Commands. For example, they:

- Make sure the Intelligence Community is aware of their intelligence needs;
- Monitor intelligence reporting and keep the combat operations staff (i.e. those in the J-3 Operations Directorate) and others aware of what's happening;
- Maintain their own intelligence analysis centers (such as the Joint Analysis Center Molesworth for the European Command, or the Joint Intelligence Center in the Pacific Command (JICPAC)) to determine how the intelligence will affect the Command; and
- Direct certain tactical intelligence collection programs, such as reconnaissance flights.

(U) The term "J-2" or "J-3," etc. can refer to the Director of the staff personally, or to the entire staff organization, depending on context.

(U) In the above abbreviations, the "J" stands for "joint," that is, military commands composed of more than one military service. If a Command is not joint, but rather an Army-only affair (e.g. USAREUR - U.S. Army Europe), the letter changes to "G" as in G-1, G-2, etc. Likewise, the Navy uses the letter "N" and the Air Force uses "A." (The Marine Corps, like the Army, uses the letter "G.") If U.S. forces are involved in an international coalition, you will see the letters CJ-1, CJ-2, etc., used (the "c" is for "combined").

(U) That's it in a nutshell!

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